

## **Awareness of Tomato Farmers on Plant Protection in Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh**

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### **ABSTRACT**

A survey conducted in Chirala and Martur mandals of the Prakasam district to assess the perception of tomato growing farmers on plant protection practices revealed that progressive farmers were being contacted by the majority of the farmers (36.67%) followed by input dealers (23.33%) for the major advisory on plant protection. In farmers point of view, lepidopteran pests *viz.*, *Helicoverpa armigera* Hub. and *Spodoptera litura* Fab. caused serious damage (73.36%) to the crop. Most of the farmers (73.33%) depended exclusively on insecticides for the management of pests. Less than fifty per cent of farmers (46.67%) use protective clothing while spraying. Irritation (56.67%), dizziness (20%) followed by skin rashes, stomach pain and headache were the most common health issues reported while using insecticides among the farmers. Though 47.63 per cent of farmers were aware of the residual effects of insecticides, only a few of them (34.62 per cent) were following the concept of a waiting period of 2-5 days.

**Keywords:** *Plant protection practices, Protective clothing, Residual effects, Tomato and Waiting period.*